

# William Ellis School

## Headteacher's letter to families

Summer Term - 12th July 2024

Dear families.

In this week's letter I wanted to take a moment to explain more fully what had happened with our IT systems on Wednesday night and Thursday, and to provide an update and hopefully reassurance on the current situation. As I'm sure you're aware from the news, other schools, universities and hospitals have recently been targeted by ransomware and data has been harvested by attackers or completely destroyed. We therefore took the possibility of a threat very seriously.

On Wednesday at 10pm, the National Crime Security Centre informed us of a possible malware attack on our school network. In response, we conducted a risk assessment with the support of Camden IT and the NCSC. To ensure the safety of our systems, we decided to suspend the use of all school devices and the network until we could complete a thorough scanning and infection clearing process.

This precautionary measure meant that we had to delay student arrivals until we could accurately register students on site. It also provided teachers with time to plan lessons without relying on digital presentations or resources that needed to be printed.

I would like to express my gratitude to the school staff who worked late into the night and early morning to implement our contingency plan for Thursday. We acknowledge that some users of our MCAS system received the notification about the delayed start via the app rather than as a text message. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused and are taking steps to ensure more staff are familiar with these systems moving forward.

On Thursday morning, we scanned all servers and devices individually and found that the infection had not spread. We identified the source of the infection, and this has now been blocked for all schools on the LGfL network. Based on all scans and data logs available, Camden Cybersecurity team concluded that no data appears to have been harvested. The conclusion is that the attempt to infect the network was unsuccessful, and we are now in the process of working with the NCSC and LGfL so that they can prevent future attempts here and in local schools.

We appreciate your understanding and patience during this time. Rest assured, we are committed to maintaining the safety and security of our IT systems. We will keep you updated on any further developments.

### **Student Artwork on Display**

Please try to see our students' artwork which is showcased in the Art Biennale.

The exhibition will be in the The Lethaby and Window Galleries, 1 Granary Square, N1C, 4AA (around 5 minutes from King's Cross station), 11th to 17th July 11am to 6pm.

## Camden Sporting Recognition

Further to news of sporting achievement in Year 8 in my last letter, two of our students were pictured in last week's Camden New Journal <https://www.camdennewjournal.co.uk/article/best-ever-games-for-team-camden>

## Lost Property

Helpers from WESPA have been through the lost property store recently and found that many unclaimed items had not been labelled with the student's name. **Please label all of your child's uniform items and school equipment with his full name and form group** as this makes it much easier to reunite students with lost items.

The unclaimed items will go into WESPA's pre-owned uniform stock to be recycled at future school events, so if your son has lost a uniform item he should check the lost property cupboard as soon as possible.

Among the lost property we have a number of winter coats. These will be given to charity if they remain unclaimed at the end of term.

## Special Events and Opportunities in Camden

### Love Camden Amplify

Join us as we celebrate the Paralympic Games through an afternoon of disability arts on Sunday 1st September, 12pm-5pm. This is a FREE and inclusive family event filled with music, dance and workshops, taking place in Swiss Cottage Open Space.

### Somali marketplace event

A Somali community event to share information about the support and services we have in Camden for children and adults who have disabilities or additional needs, and their parents on Tuesday 24 September, see [flyer](#) for more information.

### Summer is here - free and low-cost activities for children and young people

Summer is here and there are lots of fantastic free and low-cost creative and performing arts, sports and physical activities, youth and play projects, as well as trips, on offer for children and young people in Camden. Check out Camden Rise website for the [full programme of activities and opportunities](#).

Yours faithfully,

**Izzy Jones**

**Headteacher**

## **This week's WESPA Round-Up**

WESPA Round Up | Meetings, concerts, awards and some more rock!

Dear families,

What a pleasure it was to see so many friendly faces at the Duke of St Albans for the WESPA Social earlier this week. And thank you to the WESPA Choir for the impromptu acapella performance!

Next week is also packed full of WES fun so take your pick or come to them all!

### **WESPA Meeting next week - 15th July**

The final WESPA meeting of the term will be online on Monday 15th July at 7pm. The link will be shared across the WhatsApp groups and if you are not on one of them and would like to join, please email [williamellispa@gmail.com](mailto:williamellispa@gmail.com) for details. All parents and carers are welcome.

### **LaSWAP Summer Concert - 16th July**

Parliament Hill School, La Sainte Union and William Ellis School will be coming together for a special summer concert next Tuesday. Doors are at 5.30pm with the concert starting at 6pm. It will take place at St Martin's Church, Gospel Oak. Entry is £2 for adults and £1 for children - a bargain for a concert packed full of young talent! WESPA will be serving refreshments.

### **WESPA Awards - 18th July**

On the 18th July we celebrate the WESPA Awards. The award winners are chosen by school and recognise boys who have not only done well in each subject but also shown the most improvement. WESPA have traditionally sponsored the awards (hence the name) and thanks to donations over the year, we are able to continue to contribute towards prizes. If your son has been nominated for an award, you will have received an email from school earlier in the week. The awards start at 5pm and WESPA will be running a bar before and during the event (and will be collecting donations for next year!)

Have a great weekend and if you are looking for some excitement on Saturday, come and support the awesome William Ellis bands who, along with friends from our sister schools, will be taking to the stage at this year's Somerstown Festival. It kicks off at 12 noon.

Best wishes,

Al

Chair WESPA

**Coming Up:**

<b>Sports Day</b> ALL DAY	15 July
<b>Year 13 DofE Expedition</b> ALL DAY From 18 Jul until 21 Jul	18 July
<b>Last day of Summer Term</b> ALL DAY	24 July
<b>Non-Uniform Day - £1 Charity donation to take part</b> ALL DAY	24 July
<b>Early close - Students dismissed between 12.30-1.15pm</b> 12:30PM – 1:15PM	24 July
<b>Working Weekend at The Mill</b> ALL DAY From 26 Jul until 28 Jul	26 July